

Board of Directors Meeting

Town Hall

Town of North Providence

2000 Smith Street

North Providence, Rhode Island 02911

April 25, 2014

2:00 P.M.

POSTED: _____, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Chairman: Mayor Charles A. Lombardi

Present: Bianca Rodriguez (Director and Founder), John M. Kelly (Director), Toby Shepherd (Director and Founder)

1) Welcome

Chairman Lombardi opened the Hope Academy Board meeting at 2:15 p.m. and welcomed the Directors. He invited the newest Board member Bianca Rodriguez to introduce herself. Ms. Rodriguez is a new Board member and a founder of the School, she is the President of the Rhode Island Bolivian American Association and mother of two small children.

2) Review of Minutes of March 20, 2014 meeting and Presentation for Approval

Chairman Lombardi noted that the minutes were distributed to the Board members in advance, and asked for any questions or comments. With the absence of questions or comments, Chairman Lombardi asked for a motion to approve the March 20, 2014 minutes. Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2014 meeting, Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

3) Presentation of Following Policies for Discussion and Approval

Chairman Lombardi commented that the following policies were distributed to the Board in advance for review and noted that they seemed like the standard operations and business policies necessary for opening a school. With the absence of questions or comments, the Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the policies. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the following policies:

Behavior Expectations and Discipline Policy

Student Health Services and Requirements Policy

Zero Tolerance for Weapons Policy

Drug-free Workplace Policy

Affirmative Action-Equal Opportunity Policy

Fire, Evacuation and Lockdown Drills Policy

Student Records Access Policy

School Uniform Policy

Sexual Harassment Policy

Hope Section 504 Policy

Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy

Bullying Policy

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

4) Presentation of School Calendar for Discussion and Approval

Chairman Lombardi asked the Board members if they had any questions about the presentation of the School Calendar that was distributed to the Board in advance for review. The Board discussed the length of the school year and the length of the school day. The Board also noted that the snow contingency plan was indicated on the School Calendar. In light of no further discussion, Chairman Lombardi asked for a motion. Mr. Shepherd made the motion to approve the School Calendar and Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The School Calendar was unanimously approved by the Board.

5) Presentation of Updated By-laws

Chairman Lombardi noted that as part of the process of our application for 501 (c)(3) status, the Board needs to approve updated By-laws that include language specific to anti-discrimination practice.

Mr. Shepherd commented that the updated By-laws had the inclusion of gender identity as protected and requested that we amend the Anti-discrimination policy. Chairman Lombardi requested that we approve an updated Anti-discrimination policy at the next meeting and asked for a motion to adopt the updated By-laws. Mr. Kelly made

the motion to approve the updated By-laws and Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. The updated By-laws were approved by the Board unanimously.

6) Update and Discussion of Start-Up Activities

Chairman Lombardi invited Board member John Kelly to inform the Board of activities related to the Start-up process. Mr. Kelly reported on the purchase of the Board Director's and Officer's insurance as well as provided an update on how positive the evaluations have been on the enrolled students to date. Mr. Kelly also shared the details on a recent meeting with members on staff at the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Mr. Kelly informed the Board that RIDE had expressed concerns with the Board's approved staffing plan. The Board discussed the issues and Chairman Lombardi indicated that we would likely need to have another meeting next week to approve an updated budget and staffing plan.

7) Review of Performance Management Agreement and Presentation for Approval

Chairman Lombardi asked John Kelly to provide greater detail on the Performance Management Agreement. Mr. Kelly informed the Board that the agreement represented the services that Meeting Street would provide to The Hope Academy. He noted that the structure of the agreement was part of the application to RIDE that received pre-approval by the Board of Education. Mr. Kelly also discussed the fees related to the agreement and then indicated that due to his role

as President of Meeting Street he would recuse himself from the discussion and the vote. The Board discussed the agreement at length. Chairman Lombardi made a motion to approve the Performance Management Agreement between The Hope Academy and Meeting Street. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion and the Board agreed to approve the Performance Management Agreement.

8) Discussion regarding Future Agenda Items

Chairman Lombardi noted that future agenda items would be related to the need to review and approve an updated staffing plan and operating budget.

9) Board Schedule

Chairman Lombardi indicated that a meeting will be scheduled for the week of April 28th and that following that meeting, the Board meetings would be scheduled for the Third Monday of each month at 2 pm at North Providence Town Hall.

Board meeting schedule:

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 15

10) Adjournment

Chairman Lombardi called for adjournment. Mr. Kelly made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion and the Board unanimously agreed. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda D. McMullen

Secretary Pro Tem